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SC-04089-60

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12 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
Chief, Technical Services Division

SUBJECT : Airborne HF/DF System

REFERENCE : Memorandum for A/DDP, dated 27 July 1960,
from Chairman Ad Hoc Requirements Committee,
same subject (SC-03605-60/A)

1. I gather that the recommendation in paragraph 7 of the reference was acted upon affirmatively by COPS in my absence. I fully concur in the proposal and am glad it is moving forward.

2. The reason for this note is not merely to register my concurrence but also to express my interest in any further investigations that are in progress looking toward the development of a useful airborne DF System. I would like to suggest that the obvious first step in exploring the possibilities in this field is to decide against what targets it would be used. I gather there is already fully developed and in use DFing equipment for ferret missions in order to determine accurately the location of radars or other sources of radiation. Perhaps the gap that needs to be filled is created by the absence of such equipment useable in the frequency ranges that are regularly used for communications.

3. If the primary target is communications systems, I believe that possible operational circumstances should be carefully considered in deciding how useful an airborne DFing System could be. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is no particular reason to believe, therefore, that sweeps by aircraft over areas [REDACTED] are active would coincide with the times when active transmission was taking place. It may be that, in view of this circumstance, some sort of ground monitoring which can be maintained on a 24-hour basis would be more useful.

4. In summary, I am very interested in this possibility but would like to be advised at some point (a) what requirements need to be met and

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(b) where and how and by whom the possibilities of new systems are being explored. [Incidentally, I seem to remember that [redacted] was interested in this field about a year ago. If it now seems likely that some exploratory work should be done, consideration should be given to the use of [redacted].]

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SIGNED

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

cc: COPS (#3)
AdHoc Req. Com. (Mr. Reber) (#4)
AC/DPD-Attn: [redacted] /cy 2 Ref. (#5)
C/Division D (#6)
DD/P (#7017)

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